

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 W

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R 260420Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7000

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FOR SQUIRE EA/ANP

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: CORAL SEA VISITOR

1. EMBASSY AND USIS HAVE BEEN APPROACHED INFORMALLY BY
FEDERAL SECRETARY OF AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
(AAA) FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS REGARDING SELECTION
OF PRINCIPAL GUEST FOR 1976 CORAL SEA CELEBRATION.
WHILE SCHEDULED FOR FIRSTWEEK OF MAY, PAST
EXPERIENCE HAS PROVEN WISDOM OF LONG LEAD TIME
TO SECURE APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUAL (WITH WIFE) FOR THIS
TRADITIONAL EVENT IN WHICH AUSTRALIANS PLACE GREAT
STORE.

2. BOTH AAA AND EMBASSY SENSITIVE TO NUANCES OF
ELECTION PROCESS CREATED BY CURRENT ELECTION
CAMPAIGN HERE AND UPCOMING ELECTION SCENE IN US
NEXT SPRING.

3. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW DEPT'S POSITION THIS
PROJECT AND, IF POSITIVE SUPPORT INDICATED, TO WHAT
EXTENT USG PREPARED TO ACCOMMODATE AUSTRALIAN
REQUEST FOR VERY HIGH LEVEL, PRESTIGIOUS GUEST.
UNDERSTANDABLY, AUSTRALIANS WANT PROMINENT PERSON
WITH HIGH RECOGNITION FACTOR HERE. NAMES BANDIED
ABOUT IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WERE UN'S MOYNIHAN,
ELLIOT RICHARDSON, JAMES SCHLESINGER, COMMON CAUSES'S
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JOHN GARDINER AND ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT BYRON

WHITE. WOULD ALSO CONSIDER LEADING ACADEMIC FIGURE WITH CREDENTIALS IN AUSTRALASIA. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COUNSEL THE CLIMATE THIS SUBJECT MIGHT ENCOUNTER AND POSSIBILITY SECURING ATTENDANCE OF THESE OR EQUALLY PRESTIGIOUS INDIVIDUALS. AAA PREFERS CONTINUE TO DOWNPLAY MILITARY ASPECT OF CEREMONIES, HENCE PROMINENT MILITARY LEADERS ARE NOT EAGERLY SOUGHT.

4. MECHANICS OF NOMINATION ARE THAT AAA, WITH ADVICE FROM EMBASSY, SUBMITS NAME(S) TO FOREIGN OFFICE WHICH IN TURN TRANSMITS TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON FOR FORMAL INVITATION AS GUEST OF GOA. US RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, GOA WILL PROVIDE ALL FACILITIES WITHIN COUNTRY.

5. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE PRESENTING ANY NAME(S) TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS BEFORE EARLY JANUARY, THUS WOULD WELCOME YOUR VIEWS PRIOR TO THAT TIME.
PERCIVAL

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